UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/146
29 February 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ZAIRE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government and with reference to the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council (S/1996/116), I have the honour to communicate to you, annexed hereto, for the attention of the members of the Security Council the position of the Government of Zaire on the situation in Burundi (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex brought to the attention of Council members and issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) LUKABU KHABOUJI N'ZAJI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

96-04905 (E) 290296 290296 010396

/...

Annex

Position of the Government of Zaire on the situation in Burundi

1. Zaire sees the situation currently prevailing in Burundi as extremely serious and as capable of taking a dangerous turn at any moment, with unforeseeable consequences for neighbouring countries, particularly Zaire, which has traditionally been a victim of the political instability and the insecurity in Burundi and Rwanda. The situation in Burundi is precarious because it involves:

Confusion;

A weakening of authority and power in the country;

Inter-ethnic hatred which has reached unimaginable levels;

A struggle for power in which all means are acceptable, including physical extermination and ethnic cleansing;

Denial of democracy;

Cleansing of Hutu elements from the city of Bujumbura and its surroundings by a mono-ethnic Tutsi army, whereas the rest of the country is controlled by the Hutu militias, who are increasingly heavily armed in order to defend themselves.

In short, this political situation and the insecurity call for urgent attention on the part of the international community.

2. The report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the situation in Burundi reflects the reality on the ground.

3. In the view of the Zairian Government, the international community must, through the Security Council, impose peace and reconciliation in Burundi by all means available, and create the conditions for democratic government in that country, which was one of the first in Africa to organize elections that were recognized as free and democratic.

4. The Government of Zaire is ready to make a contribution to any initiative by the United Nations or the Security Council aimed at restoring peace and national reconciliation.

Kinshasa, 22 February 1996

(Signed) Gérard KAMANDA wa KAMANDA
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Foreign Affairs